



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

A vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive.

JOINT COUNCIL-POLICE BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting held electronically and open to public attendance

Council Chamber, City Hall

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone (Police Board Chair)

Councillor Ruby Campbell

Councillor Tasha Henderson

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

Councillor Paul Minhas

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

ABSENT:

Councillor Daniel Fontaine

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Spitale

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Marius Miklea

Acting Corporate Officer

Mr. Erin Williams

Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Gary So

Acting Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Jackie Teed

Acting Director of Climate Action, Planning and
Development

Ms. Eva Yip

Acting Director of Human Resources and Information
Technology

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS:

Heather Boersma

Alejandro Diaz*

Drew Hart

Patrick Lalonde

Mary Trentadue

NEW WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Dave Jansen	Chief Constable
Ms. Jacqueline Dairon	Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Hailey Finnigan	Communications Officer
Ms. Daisy Dyer	Executive Assistant
Mr. Paul Hyland	Deputy Chief Constable
Mr. Andrew Perry	Inspector
Mr. Eamon Ward	Inspector
Ms. Aman Gosal	Inspector

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 2024 New Westminster Police Department Budget

Staff presented an overview of the 2024 New Westminster Police Department's preliminary operating budget. Topics included the New Westminster Police Board and Police Department governance, regional comparison and analysis, and an in-depth review and opportunity for discussion of the proposed budget.

Discussion ensued on:

- Additional opportunities for City Council and the Police Board to meet this year. The meetings will potentially include development of strategies to advocate to senior governments together and determine where the values of Police Board and Council coincide;
- Rising tuition costs at Justice Institute of BC affect the budget, as the training costs are now paid at the local instead of provincial level;
- E-Comm 911 also has rising costs potentially due to moving to Next-Generation 9-1-1. There are no potential cost savings if City of New Westminster was to move to a localized dispatch;

- There are many HR department resources being borrowed from the City by the Police Department. There would be cost savings in bringing in a full-time HR employee.

Procedural Note: Councillor McEvoy left the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Discussion continued on:

- Police services are unique and are not apples-to-apples when compared to other city departmental budgets. Despite the percentage increase, the end goal is an inclusive, safe community with adequately funded emergency services;
- The police budget could benefit from having explanatory notes in the City's budget as residents do not understand that the NWPD budget includes services beyond policing.
- With respect to police officers per capita, New Westminster is falling behind other communities and would benefit by having such a study;
- The Police Board has an obligation to meet the November 30 budget proposal deadline. City staff and Police Department stated an interest in working together and will schedule a workshop in before the deadline for an additional review.

3. END OF THE MEETING

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER